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**James Niewiek**  
**4112 S. Division**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49548**

January 3, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft, Dept of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20530

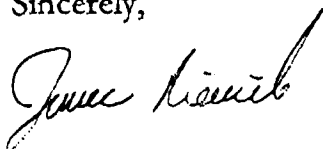
Dear Attorney General Ashcroft,

As a small business owner, I write you in support of the recent Microsoft settlement. After more than three years of court battles, I am happy to hear that the Department of Justice and Microsoft have finally reached an agreement.

Microsoft agreed to terms that extend way beyond the products and procedures that were actually an issue in the suit in the first place. Under the terms of the agreement, Microsoft has agreed to subject itself to constant review by the government, and will license out protocols, codes, and interfaces for Windows and other software so that other software companies can compete more effectively. I fail to see how anyone could purloin anything else from Microsoft.

Owning my own business makes me very aware of the recession our nation is going through. The IT industry needs to move on and get the competitive process rolling. It is time for our economy to prosper, by getting back to business as usual.

Sincerely,



James Niewiek